

REMARKS

For reference purposes, claims 1, 14, and 15 of the present application are provided below:

*1. A method for detecting active ports of a sequencer, the sequencer including a plurality of ports including a first port, the method comprising:
automatically identifying the first port as an active port in response to a determination that an external component is connected to the first port;
automatically identifying the first port as an inactive port in response to a determination that no external component is connected to the first port; and
sequencing only a first portion of ports of the sequencer which have been identified as active ports.*

*14. A method for sequencing selected ports of an electronic device, the electronic device including a first port and a second port, the method comprising:
automatically identifying at least one active port of the electronic device;
wherein said automatically identifying includes automatically determining whether an external load is connected to the at least one active port; and
sequencing only a first portion of ports of the electronic device which have been identified as active ports.*

*15. The method of claim 14 further comprising:
automatically identifying at least one non-active port of the electronic device;
wherein a non-active port is characterized by a port which is not electrically connected to an external load; and
ignoring non-active ports in sequencing operations performed by the electronic device.*

Claims 1, 6-10, 14-15, 20-22, 26, 31-35, 38-39, 44-46, 49 is rejected by the examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is being anticipated by Colmenero (US 4365245). This rejections is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for detecting active ports of a sequencer. The method comprises automatically identifying a first port as an active port in response to a determination that an external component is connected to the first port; automatically identifying the first port as an inactive port in response to a determination that no external component is connected to the

first port; and sequencing only a first portion of ports of the sequencer which have been identified as active ports.

On pages 2-3 of the office action, the examiner states that Colmenero automatically determining whether an external component is connected to the first port and identifying as active or inactive thereby, citing column 4, lines 28-34 in support. This assertion is respectfully traversed. There appears to be no teaching or suggestion in Colmenero relating to the features of automatic detection of active and/or inactive ports of a sequencer as defined, for example, in claim 1.

Applicant's attorney wishes to seek further clarification from the examiner on this issue, by way of telephonic interview, in order to clarify specifically where this feature is taught in Colmenero.

On page 3 of the office action, the examiner states that Colmenero teaches automatically identifying active ports, and sequencing only desired active ports of the electronic device, citing column 4, lines 23-28 and 49-55 in support. This assertion is respectfully traversed. There appears to be no teaching or suggestion in Colmenero relating to the features of automatic detection of active and/or inactive ports of a sequencer as defined, for example, in claim 14.

Applicant's attorney wishes to seek further clarification from the examiner on this issue, by way of telephonic interview, in order to clarify specifically where this feature is taught in Colmenero.

On page 3 of the office action, the examiner states that Colmenero teaches identifying non-active ports of the electronic device, and ignoring non-active ports in sequencing operations, citing column 4, lines 23-25 in support. This assertion is respectfully traversed. There appears to be no teaching or suggestion in Colmenero relating to the features of automatic detection of active and/or inactive ports of a sequencer as defined, for example, in claim 15.

Applicant's attorney wishes to seek further clarification from the examiner on this issue, by way of telephonic interview, in order to clarify specifically where this feature is taught in Colmenero.

Claim 1 is rejected by the examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is being anticipated by McAlear (US6697372). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The examiner states on page 5 of the office action that McAlear discloses determining whether an external component is connected to the first port in identifying as active or inactive thereby, citing column 2, lines 64-66 in support. The examiner further asserts on page 5 of the office action that McAlear discloses distinguishing between active and inactive ports during control, citing column 3, lines 13-20 in support. Such assertions are respectfully traversed.

There appears to be no teaching or suggestion in McAlear of the features relating to the sequencing of only identified active ports of a sequencer as defined, for example, in claim 1.

Applicant's attorney wishes to seek further clarification from the examiner on this issue, by way of telephonic interview, in order to clarify specifically where this feature is taught in McAlear.

Moreover, it is submitted that the teachings of McAlear represent non-analogous art since the teachings of McAlear are directed to a technique for interfacing peripheral devices to computers using a new serial bus standard known as Universal Serial Bus (USB). In contrast the present claimed invention, as defined, for example, in claim 1, is directed to a technique for automatically detecting active ports of a sequencer, and for sequencing only a first portion of ports of the sequencer which have been identified as active ports. It is submitted that one having ordinary skill in the art would not look to the teachings of McAlear (relating to interfacing of peripheral devices to computers using the Universal Serial Bus standard) for overcoming problems associated with conventional sequencer technology. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, it is submitted that amended claim 1 is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of McAlear, and is therefore believed to be allowable.

Claim 1 is rejected by the examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is being anticipated by Bastiani (US 6675243). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The examiner states on page 8 of the office action that Bastiani discloses determining whether an external component is connected to the first port in identifying as active or inactive thereby, citing Figure 34, and column 33, lines 23-25 in support. This assertion is respectfully traversed. There appears to be no teaching or suggestion in Bastiani of the features relating to the sequencing of only identified active ports of a sequencer as defined, for example, in claim 1.

Applicant's attorney wishes to seek further clarification from the examiner on this issue, by way of telephonic interview, in order to clarify specifically where this feature is taught in Bastiani.

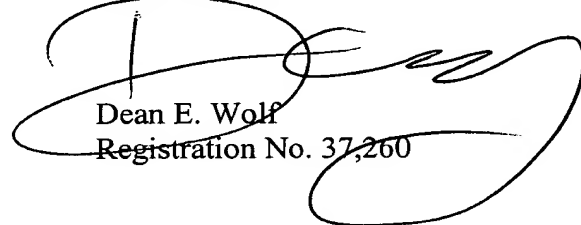
Independent claims 26 and 38 define features similar to those defined in claims 1 and 14, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least those reasons stated above in support of claim 1 and 14. Additionally, each of the presently pending dependent claims is also believed to be allowable since it depends upon a respective independent claim.

The additional limitations recited in the independent claims or the dependent claims are not further discussed as the above-discussed limitations are clearly sufficient to distinguish the claimed invention from the cited prior art of record.

Because claims 1-51 are believed to be allowable in their present form, many of the examiner's rejections in the Office Action have not been addressed in this response. However, applicant respectfully reserves the right to respond to one or more of the examiner's rejections in subsequent amendments should conditions arise warranting such responses.

During a telephonic communication between the undersigned attorney and the examiner on May 19, 2006, it was agreed that the examiner would permit a telephonic interview with the undersigned attorney after an RCE for the present application was filed. It was further agreed that the examiner would allow additional time after the telephonic interview for applicant's attorney to file a supplemental amendment (if necessary) before the examiner initiates any further searching and/or substantive examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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